

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) C.A. No. 20-1744-CFC
)
WALMART INC. AND)
WAL-MART STORES EAST, LP,)
)
Defendants.)

[PROPOSED] SCHEDULING ORDER

This ____ day of _____ 2024, the Court having conducted an initial Rule 16(b) scheduling conference pursuant to Local Rule 16.1(b), and the Parties having determined after discussion that the matter cannot be resolved at this juncture by settlement, voluntary mediation, or binding arbitration:

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. **ESI Order.** The Parties shall confer and agree upon a proposed ESI Order to be submitted to the Court on or before May 15, 2024.
2. **Rule 26(a)(1) Initial Disclosures.** Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, the Parties shall make their initial disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) on or before May 15, 2024.
3. **Joinder of Other Parties and Amendment of Pleadings.** All motions to join other parties, and to amend or supplement the pleadings, shall be filed on or before May 15, 2024.

4. **Protective Order.** All disclosure and discovery in this case shall be governed by and conform to the Protective Order entered in this case on November 18, 2022 (D.I. 88) (“Protective Order”). Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the Protective Order in any way.

5. **Discovery.**

a. Related Parties. Defendants Walmart Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores East, LP (collectively, “Walmart” or Defendant), shall be considered together as one Party for purposes of this Order and for interpreting any Federal Rules of Civil Procedure relating to discovery that uses the term “Party.”

b. Document Production. Document production shall be substantially completed on or before September 5, 2025.

c. Fact Discovery Cut-Off. All fact discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before March 4, 2026.

d. Requests for Admission. A maximum of 75 requests for admission are permitted for each side, excluding any requests for purposes of authenticating documents.

e. Interrogatories. A maximum of 50 interrogatories, including contention interrogatories, are permitted for each side.

6. **Depositions.**

a. Deposition Protocol. Before any deposition takes place in this case,

the Parties shall confer and agree upon a Deposition Protocol to govern the noticing and taking of depositions.

b. Party Fact Witness Depositions. Each side is limited to a total of 175 hours of oral examination of Party fact witnesses, including any Rule 30(b)(6) testimony under Paragraph 6.c. For purposes of this Paragraph, former employees of the Parties shall be considered Party fact witnesses.

c. Rule 30(b)(6) Depositions. Each Party may seek up to 21 hours of 30(b)(6) testimony from another Party.

d. Depositions of Third Parties. Each side is limited to a total of 150 hours of oral examination of third parties.

7. Disputes Relating to Discovery Matters and the Protective Order.

Should counsel find they are unable to resolve a dispute relating to a discovery matter or the Protective Order, the Parties shall contact the Court's Case Manager to schedule an in-person conference/argument.

a. Unless otherwise ordered, by no later than 96 hours prior to the conference/argument, the Party seeking relief shall file with the Court a letter, not to exceed 750 words, outlining the issues in dispute and the Party's position on those issues. The Party shall submit as attachments to its letter (1) an averment of counsel that the Parties made a reasonable effort to resolve the dispute and that such effort included oral communication that involved Delaware counsel for the

Parties, and (2) a draft order for the Court's signature that identifies with specificity the relief sought by the Party. The Party shall file concurrently with its letter a motion that in no more than one paragraph sets forth the relief sought. The motion also shall have attached to it the draft order for the Court's signature that identifies with specificity the relief sought by the Party.

b. By no later than 48 hours prior to the conference/argument, any Party opposing the application for relief may file a letter, not to exceed 750 words, outlining that Party's reasons for its opposition.

c. Two hard copies of the Parties' letters and attachments must be provided to the Court within one hour of e-filing the document(s). The hard copies shall comply with Paragraph 13 of this Order.

d. If a motion concerning a discovery matter or the Protective Order is filed without leave of the Court that does not comport with the procedures set forth in this Paragraph, the motion will be denied without prejudice to the moving Party's right to bring the dispute to the Court through the procedures set forth in this Paragraph.

8. Papers Filed Under Seal. When filing papers under seal, counsel shall deliver to the Clerk an original and two copies of the papers. A redacted version of any sealed document shall be filed electronically within seven days of the filing of the sealed document.

9. Disclosure of Expert Testimony. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties and permitted by the Court, disclosure of expert testimony in this case will be conducted pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

a. Expert Reports. Plaintiff's opening expert reports are due on or before June 2, 2026. Defendant's responsive expert reports are due on or before July 31, 2026. Any additional report Plaintiff wishes to submit in reply to Defendant's responsive expert reports is due on or before August 31, 2026. If, in its reply reports, Plaintiff submits an opinion on any new issue (e.g., an opinion that could not have reasonably been addressed by Defendant's responsive reports), then Defendant may submit a report responding to that opinion on or before September 30, 2026. No other expert reports will be permitted without leave of the Court. Along with the submissions of the expert reports, the Parties shall provide at least three days the expert is available for deposition prior to the close of expert discovery.

b. Expert Depositions. Depositions of experts shall be completed on or before December 11, 2026.

c. Objections to Expert Testimony. To the extent any objection to expert testimony is made pursuant to the principles announced in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), as incorporated in Federal Rule of Evidence 702, it shall be made by motion on or before February 17, 2027.

Answering briefs shall be served and filed on or before April 21, 2027. Reply briefs shall be served and filed on or before June 4, 2027.

10. Case Dispositive Motions.

a. No Early Motions Without Leave. All case dispositive motions and the opening briefs and affidavits supporting such motions shall be served and filed on or before February 17, 2027. No case dispositive motion under Rule 56 may be filed more than ten days before this date without leave of the Court. Answering briefs shall be served and filed on or before April 21, 2027. Reply briefs shall be served and filed on or before June 4, 2027.

b. Motions to be Filed Separately. A Party shall not combine into a single motion multiple motions that rely in whole or in part on different facts.

c. Concise Statement of Facts Requirement. Any motion for summary judgment shall be accompanied by a separate concise statement detailing each material fact as to which the moving Party contends that there are no genuine issues to be tried that are essential for the Court's determination of the summary judgment motion (not the entire case).¹ A Party must submit a separate concise statement of facts for each summary judgment motion. Any Party who opposes the motion shall file and serve with its opposing papers a separate document

¹ The Party must detail each material *fact* in its concise statement of facts. The concise statements of facts play an important gatekeeping role in the Court's consideration of summary judgment motions.

containing a single concise statement that admits or disputes the facts set forth in the moving Party's concise statement, as well as sets forth all material facts as to which it is contended there exists a genuine issue necessary to be litigated.

d. Focus of the Concise Statement. When preparing the separate concise statement, a Party shall reference only the material facts that are absolutely necessary for the Court to determine the limited issues presented in the motion for summary judgment (and no others), and each reference shall contain a citation to a particular affidavit, deposition, or other document that supports the Party's interpretation of the material fact. Documents referenced in the concise statement may, but need not, be filed in their entirety if a Party concludes that the full context would be helpful to the Court (e.g., a deposition miniscript with an index stating what pages may contain key words may often be useful). The concise statement shall particularly identify the page and portion of the page of the document referenced. The document referred to shall have relevant portions highlighted or otherwise emphasized. The Parties may extract and highlight the relevant portions of each referenced document, but shall ensure that enough of a document is attached to put the matter in context. If a Party determines that an entire deposition transcript should be submitted, the Party should consider whether a miniscript would be preferable to a full-size transcript. If an entire miniscript is submitted, the index of terms appearing in the transcript must be included, if it exists. When

multiple pages from a single document are submitted, the pages shall be grouped in a single exhibit. Concise statements of fact shall comply with Paragraphs 13, 14, and 16 of this Order.

e. Word Limits for Summary Judgment Motions. For case dispositive motions, no opening or answering brief shall exceed 10,000 words and no reply brief shall exceed 5,000 words, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties and permitted by the Court.

f. Word Limits for Concise Statement. The concise statement in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment shall be no longer than 2,500 words.

g. Affidavits and Declarations. Affidavits or declarations setting forth facts and/or authenticating exhibits, as well as exhibits themselves, shall be attached only to the concise statement (i.e., not briefs).

h. Scope of Judicial Review. When resolving motions for summary judgment, the Court shall have no independent duty to search and consider any part of the record not otherwise referenced in the separate concise statements of the Parties. Further, the Court shall have no independent duty to review exhibits in their entirety, but rather will review only those portions of the exhibits specifically identified in the concise statements. Material facts set forth in the moving Party's concise statement will be deemed admitted unless controverted by a separate

concise statement of the opposing Party.

11. Applications by Motion. Except as otherwise specified herein, any application to the Court shall be by written motion. Any non-dispositive motion should contain the statement required by Local Rule 7.1.1.

12. Motions *in Limine*. Motions *in limine* shall not be separately filed. All *in limine* requests and responses thereto shall be set forth in the proposed pretrial order. Each Party shall be limited to ten *in limine* requests, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties and permitted by the Court. The *in limine* request and any response shall contain the authorities relied upon; each *in limine* request may be supported by a maximum of 750 words of argument and may be opposed by a maximum of 750 words of argument, and the Party making the *in limine* request may add a maximum of 250 words in reply in support of its request. If more than one Party is supporting or opposing an *in limine* request, such support or opposition shall be combined in a single 750-word submission (and, if the moving Party, a 250-word reply). No separate briefing shall be submitted on *in limine* requests, unless otherwise permitted by the Court.

13. Hard Copies. The Parties shall provide to the Court two hard copies of all letters filed pursuant to Paragraph 7 of this Order, all briefs, and any other document filed in support of any such letters and briefs (i.e., the concise statement of facts filed pursuant to Paragraph 10.d of this Order, appendices, exhibits,

declarations, affidavits, etc.). This provision also applies to papers filed under seal. Exhibits and attachments shall be separated by tabs. Each exhibit and attachment shall have page numbers of some sort such that a particular page of an exhibit or attachment can be identified by a page number. The Parties shall take all practical measures to avoid filing multiple copies of the same exhibit or attachment. The Parties should highlight the text of exhibits and attachments they wish the Court to read. The Parties are encouraged to include in an exhibit or attachment only the pages of the document in question that (1) identify the document (e.g., the first page of a deposition transcript or the cover page of a request for discovery) and (2) are relevant to the issue(s) before the Court.

14. Pinpoint Citations. Pinpoint citations are required in all briefing, letters, and concise statements of facts. The Court will ignore any assertions of controverted facts and controverted legal principles not supported by a pinpoint citation to, as applicable: the record, an attachment or exhibit, and/or case law or appropriate legal authority. *See United States v. Dunkel*, 927 F.2d 955, 956 (“Judges are not like pigs, hunting for truffles buried in briefs.”).

15. Page/Word Limitations. Where page limits are specified by order or rule, the Parties shall use a word-count limit. For each page allowed by order or rule, the Parties shall use up to 250 words. For example, where the page limit specified by rule is 20 pages, the maximum number of words for a Party’s

submission would be 5,000 (20 x 250). A certification as to the total number of words must be included in any submission.

16. Font. The text for all briefs, letters, motions, and concise statements of fact shall be 14-point and in Times New Roman or similar typeface. Each such filing must include a certification by counsel that the filing complies with the type, font, and word limitations set forth in this Order. The person who prepares the certification may rely on the word count of the word-processing system used to prepare the filing.

17. Compendium of Cases. A Party may submit with any briefing two courtesy copies of a compendium of the selected authorities on which the Party would like the Court to focus. The Parties should not include in the compendium authorities for general principles or uncontested points of law (e.g., the standards for summary judgment or claim construction). An authority that is cited only once by a Party generally should not be included in the compendium. An authority already provided to the Court by another Party should not be included in the compendium. Compendiums of cases shall not be filed electronically with the Court, but a notice of service of a compendium of cases shall be filed electronically with the Court.

18. Pretrial Conference. On _____, 2027, the Court will hold a Rule 16(e) final pretrial conference in court with counsel

beginning at _____.m. The Parties shall file a joint proposed final pretrial order in compliance with Local Rule 16.3(c) no later than 5:00 p.m. on _____, 2027. Prior to filing a joint proposed final pretrial order, the Parties shall meet and confer regarding the timing and process for exchanging drafts of the pretrial order, exhibit lists, and deposition designations, along with any objections thereto, as well as the process and timing for exchanging motions *in limine* and responses.

19. Jury Instructions, Voir Dire, and Special Verdict Forms. Where a case is to be tried to a jury, pursuant to Local Rules 47.1(a)(2) and 51.1, the Parties should file (1) proposed voir dire, (2) preliminary jury instructions, (3) final jury instructions, and (4) special verdict forms no later than 5:00 p.m. on _____, 2027. The Parties shall submit simultaneously with filing each of the foregoing four documents in Word format to cfc_civil@ded.uscourts.gov.

20. Trial. This matter is scheduled for a 25-day jury trial beginning at 8:30 a.m. on September ___, 2027, with the subsequent trial days beginning at 9:00 a.m. Until the case is submitted to the jury for deliberations, the jury will be excused each day at 4:30 p.m. The trial will be timed, as counsel will be allocated a total number of hours in which to present their respective cases.

21. Relevant Deadlines and Dates. All relevant deadlines and dates established by this Order are set forth in the chart attached as Exhibit A.

The Honorable Colm F. Connolly
Chief United States District Court Judge

Exhibit A

Event		Date
1.	Submission of Proposed Scheduling Order	Wednesday, April 17, 2024
2.	Submission of Proposed ESI Order	Wednesday, May 15, 2024
3.	Initial Disclosures Exchanged	Wednesday, May 15, 2024
4.	Joinder of Other Parties	Wednesday, May 15, 2024
5.	Substantial Completion of Document Production	Friday, September 5, 2025
6.	Close of Fact Discovery	Wednesday, March 4, 2026
7.	Plaintiff Expert Reports	Tuesday, June 2, 2026
8.	Defense Expert Reports	Friday, July 31, 2026
9.	Plaintiff Reply Expert Reports	Monday, August 31, 2026
10.	Defense Reply Reports	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
11.	Close of Expert Discovery	Friday, December 11, 2026
12.	Dispositive & <i>Daubert</i> Motions - Opening Briefs	Wednesday, February 17, 2027
13.	Dispositive & <i>Daubert</i> Motions - Opposition Briefs	Wednesday, April 21, 2027
14.	Dispositive & <i>Daubert</i> Motions - Reply Briefs	Friday, June 4, 2027
15.	Submission of Proposed Pretrial Order, Motions <i>in Limine</i> , Voir Dire, Preliminary Jury Instructions, Final Jury Instructions, and Special Verdict Forms	, 2027
16.	Pretrial Conference	, 2027
17.	Trial	September __, 2027